

REMARKS

The Office Action of 12/06/2006 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the claims have been amended as set forth above. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 18, 19 and 25-28 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, which indication is appreciatively acknowledged.

Claims 15-28 were rejected as being inadequately supported in the specification, with particular reference to the feature of claim 15 of "applying a scale factor to at least a selected one of" This language has been deleted and replaced by alternative language having the same intended meaning, namely "multiplying or dividing at least a selected one of" Support for this feature may be found at least in Figure 10 (encoder 54 dividing by 2^2) and Figure 12 (encoder 64 multiplying by δ_2/δ_1) and accompanying description (paragraphs page 12, line 16 to page 13, line 19; and paragraphs page 13, line 20 to page 14, line 29, respectively).

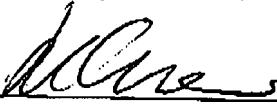
Claims 15-17 and 22-24 were rejected as being anticipated by Yee. The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In particular, claims 15 and 22 have been amended to recite in part "encoder means for multiply at least a selected one of S1, S2, . . . , and SK by a value to generate the digital output, wherein the digital output has a sufficient number of bits to preserve the accuracy that is contained within S1, S2, . . . , and SK." Yee is not believed to teach or suggest any such feature.

In the cover figure of Yee, output strings of the MSB and LSB flash arrays are further processed by MSB and LSB decoders. As described in column 2, lines 11-20 of Yee, however, these decoders are believed to convert a "thermometer" code into multibit value. There is no indication that the decoders of Yee apply multiply the output of the flash array by a value.

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 15-28 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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